

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 521**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Diaz**

February 18, 2003

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An act to add Section 4074.5 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to pharmacies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 521, as introduced, Diaz. Prescription drug warnings.

Existing law, the Pharmacy Law, requires a pharmacist to inform a patient, orally or in writing, of certain information about the harmful effects of a prescription drug taken in combination with alcohol. Existing law makes the violation of the Pharmacy Law a crime.

This bill would additionally require a pharmacist to include a large-print informational insert with each drug dispensed by prescription informing the patient when the drug poses a substantial risk of harm if taken in combination with alcohol or other medication.

Because a violation of this requirement would be punishable as a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 4074.5 is added to the Business and  
2 Professions Code, to read:

3 4074.5. A pharmacist shall include a large-print  
4 informational insert with each drug dispersed by prescription  
5 informing the patient when the drug poses a substantial risk of  
6 harm to the person consuming the drug if taken in combination  
7 with alcohol or other medications, including both prescription and  
8 nonprescription drugs.

9 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
10 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
11 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
12 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
13 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
14 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
15 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
16 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
17 Constitution.

